

THE STATE OF IDAHO  
SUPREME COURT



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**NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release  
October 19, 2011**

**Pro Bono Week in Idaho declared by Supreme Court**

(Boise) – The Idaho Supreme Court has proclaimed October 23-29, 2011 as Pro Bono Week in Idaho. The purpose is to honor the work of those who provide volunteer legal services, to address the growing need for civil legal assistance on urgent matters, and to remind all attorneys of their responsibility to assist in the legal profession's commitment to equal justice under the law.

Because of the tumultuous economy and erosion of financial resources, many families and individuals are unable to afford legal services. Idaho lawyers and judges strongly support pro bono efforts for those in need and have joined together to encourage these services through the establishment of the Idaho Pro Bono Commission.

"Because of the free legal help donated by many Idaho lawyers, the promise of equal justice under the law has been realized by many individuals and families who cannot afford to pay for legal services," said Justice Jim Jones. "It is an effort we can be proud of and something that will continue to grow."

In 2010, more than 675 attorneys provided over 12,000 volunteer hours to more than 1,700 low-income individuals, including providing legal representation in more than 700 court cases. These free services are valued at over \$1,700,000.

In addition, the graduating class of 2011 at the University of Idaho College of Law compiled approximately 10,800 of volunteer hours as part of the College's distinctive pro bono program in which every student participates.

The Commission recognizes the need to expand the delivery of legal services to economically disadvantaged persons and families and is setting aside this week to show appreciation and support for the rendering of volunteer legal services.

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